

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022

Courant Community

Courant Community | Thursday, March 3, 2022

LOCLA NEWS

Warming Hands, Warming Hearts drive a success



Candice Corcione (left), consultant and former director of the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce, and Melissa Smith, executive director of the TCCC, collect some of the clothing items at the entrance to the event at Georgina's of Bolton, on Feb. 24. Story, page 3. **STEVE SMITH/ COURANT COMMUNITY**

LOCAL NEWS



East Hartford's Shailyn Pinkney tries to get to the basket. **STEVE SMITH/ COURANT COMMUNITY**

East Hartford wins a thriller in CCC final

Kayla Henry launched a last second 3-point shot from the corner to get the Hornets the win. **Pages 8-9**

LOCAL NEWS

Locals celebrating milestones

From a first birthday to a 70th birthday and everywhere in between, we wish them all the best. **Page 4**

LOCAL NEWS

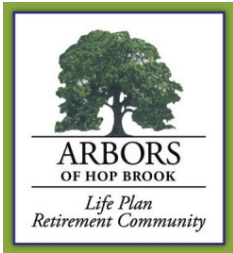
Temporary 'pause' on housing considered

Planners in South Windsor are divided as to whether a temporary halt to new housing would be good or bad. **Page 5**

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American Legion Post to meet monthly

VERNON — SOUTH WINDSOR — The Abe E. Miller American Legion Post 133 South Windsor meets on the third Tuesday of every month at the South Windsor Community Center, 150 Nevers Road, room 205 - 207, at 7 p.m.

All veterans are welcome. Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the SW food bank. Masks are required at all times. Contact Ken Lewis for more information at 860-416-5276.

Scholarship applications due in March

SOUTH WINDSOR — South Windsor Dollars for Scholars is a chapter of the Dollars for Scholars® program of Scholarship America®.

South Windsor Dollars for Scholars is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the furthering of nonprofit scholarship resources and educational opportunities for students who are residents of the town of South Windsor, students educated within the town limits of, but not residents of the town of South Windsor, and/or students meeting the specific residency requirements contained within the criteria of scholarships administered by South Windsor Dollars for Scholars.

Scholarships specifically serviced by South Windsor Dollars for Scholars will be accessible at SouthWindsor.DollarsforScholars.org from now through 11:59 p.m. March 15.

It is imperative students read the sign-in page prior to beginning the application for important and specific instructions. There is only one application to complete for consideration, though some scholarships do require specific essays or portfolio inclusions. All applications will be required to be submitted electronically through the website. Notification of South Windsor Dollars for Scholars scholarship awards will be made in June.

Board game group, CT wildlife program taking place

MANCHESTER — The Manchester Public Library, 586 Main St., is hosting the following events. For more information, visit <http://library.townofmanchester.org> or call the library at 860-645-0821.

The Silk City Board Game Group will meet from noon to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 5. Volunteers will teach Coffee Traders, Three Sisters, Aquatica, Nidaviller, and The Crew: Mission Deep Sea. All games are provided by the library. This is a free program for adults. Light refreshments to be served.

At 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 7, Connecticut DEEP Wildlife Expert Ginny Apple will present 'Connecticut Wildlife: Beavers.' No registration is required for this free, in-person program for adults.

Manchester Historical Society gets grant to create new exhibit

MANCHESTER — A \$4,999 grant to the Manchester Historical Society, awarded by Connecticut Humanities (CTH), will enable "Manchester Then and Now," a new exhibit showcasing the history of Manchester from pre-Colonial times to the present.

The exhibit will open to the public on Saturday, March 26, from noon to 4 p.m., at the Manchester History Center, 175 Pine St. Admission is free, and the exhibit will continue to be on display during normal operating hours at the History Center.

Manchester Then and Now illustrates Manchester's many contributions to the arts and industry and tells the story of how people from around the globe and from diverse backgrounds came to call Manchester home. The exhibit displays artifacts and images that connect Manchester's past to its present through activities and experiences that Manchester's residents have shared throughout the town's history. Visit ManchesterHistory.org for more information.

Covid-19 booster clinic taking place

BOLTON — Bentley Memorial Library, 206 Bolton Center Road, will host a COVID-19 booster clinic from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, by appointment. Moderna and Pfizer boosters for ages 12 years or older are available.

To book an appointment you must register for the type of booster you plan to receive. Bring your vaccination card, ID, and (if applicable) your insurance card. Visit town.boltonct.org/calendar to access the registration page. Contact the library at 860-646-7349 or stop by the library for assistance registering.

Manchester Women's Club welcomes new members

MANCHESTER — The Manchester Women's Club is looking for women who want a chance to help the community while making new friends. The next 2nd Tuesday of the month meeting will take place on March 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Manchester High School, 134 Middle Turnpike East, in the teacher's lounge, freshman wing.

The club conducts a wide variety of volunteer activities to help others in the community, such as Little Free Libraries for children, projects for vets and MACC, as well as social activities to get to know each other. Visit www.manchesterwomensclub.org for more information.

Cheney Railroad history walk taking place in March

MANCHESTER — The public is invited to a Cheney Railroad history walk on Saturday, March 5, at 1 p.m. Meet at the front steps of Fuss and O'Neill, 146 Hartford Road.

Explore the route of the former railroad, built in 1869 to connect the Cheney silk mills to the main rail line in the North End. At 2.5 miles, it was the shortest private freight-and-passenger railroad in the United States. Participants will hike along the streets at first, visiting property acquired

by the town, and on to Center Springs Park and the footbridge over Bigelow Brook. The terrain is hilly and bumpy in parts. It will take about one-and-a-half hours round trip.

Participants will hear about the history of the railroad and see maps and old pictures. Sponsored by the Manchester Land Conservation Trust. No dogs are allowed. Visit www.manchesterlandtrust.org for more information. Extreme weather cancels, but bring an umbrella if there is light rain or snow.

Glastonbury Centennial Lions Club hosting pasta dinner

GLASTONBURY — The Glastonbury Centennial Lions Club is holding a curbside pick-up pasta dinner from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at First Church of Christ, 2183 Main St.

The menu features pasta with homemade Bolognese sauce, Caesar salad and a dinner roll prepared and donated by Salad Bar Glastonbury, and a chocolate brownie. The cost is \$10 per meal. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

A portion of proceeds will fund the Glastonbury Centennial Lions Club scholarship for student residents in Glastonbury. Email GlastonburyLions@yahoo.com to purchase tickets. For more details, call President Christine Kurtz at 860-597-3530.

Those who cannot attend but still want to support the Lions may donate a meal to emergency first responders. Club members will deliver the meal.

Tolland Library presents Sheryl Faye as Ruth Bader Ginsburg

TOLLAND — On Wednesday, March 9, from 7 to 9 p.m., The Friends of the Tolland Library welcome back Sheryl Faye, who will virtually portray Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The performance is 50 minutes long, and you can stream during the above time period.

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Courant Community

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News and content submissions

Contact Courant Community Editor Erin Quinlan at **860-875-3366, Ext. 3030** or equinlan@courant.com.

Send press releases, community events and photos, news tips or letters to the editor to community@courant.com.

To submit Good Neighbor items, birthday greetings, engagement or wedding announcements, email community@courant.com.

Send news items by mail to Courant Community, PO Box 569, Hartford, CT 06141-0569, or by fax to 860-875-9552.

Advertising options

To place a commercial classified ad, call 860-870-3044. For all other advertising needs, call 860-875-3366 or 888-456-2211.



Scan with your smartphone to shop at the Hartford Courant Store mobile website.

Warming Hands, Warming Hearts drive a success during pandemic

By Steve Smith
Courant Community

VERNON — The East of the River Chambers of Commerce Association - combining the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, CT River Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the South Windsor Chamber of Commerce - once again came together to supply hats, gloves, coats, and other winter clothing items.

A culminating event was held at Georgina's of Bolton, on Feb. 24. Because of the pandemic, the effort was spread across the last two years, with many of the clothing items already having been dispersed, through charities in each chamber's area.

"It's our annual effort to raise funding and collect thousands of garments on behalf of the neediest children in our east of the river communities," said ERCCA Chairman Peter DeMallie.

The Tolland County Chamber of Commerce, for example, collected more than 2,000 coats and 2,000 pairs of gloves, as well as an ongoing fundraising collection.

The effort started when the former Executive Director of the Tolland County Chamber Candice Corcione's granddaughter wanted to do something to help the families that her mother, a social worker, worked with.

Soon, other chambers joined in and broadened the effort.

Key sponsors of the program include Windsor Federal, which donated \$2,500 and American Eagle Credit Union, which donated \$1,000.

"Every year, they continue to donate, and its



Thousands of gloves, hats, scarves, coats, and other winter items were collected and distributed over the last two years of the Warming Hands, Warming Hearts winter clothing drive.

STEVE SMITH/COURANT COMMUNITY

fantastic," DeMallie said.

The South Windsor Community Foundation also raised \$1,755 for the cause.

DeMallie said he was pleased to see so many organizations come together, and hopes that next year's effort will be even larger.

"It's a lot better to give than receive," he said. "We've done thousands of garments, and we've got thousands of dollars in donations, and we hope to be even bigger and better next year."

DeMallie also thanked Georgina's owner, George Koutouzis, who donates the space and food for the drive's culmination. Georgina's staff also donated their time to serve attendees.

For more information, contact any of the chambers of commerce - www.tollandcountychamber.org, www.crvchamber.org, www.southwindsorchamber.com, or www.manchesterchamber.com.



Candice Corcione (left), consultant and former director of the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce, and Melissa Smith, executive director of the TCCC, collect some of the clothing items at the entrance to the event at Georgina's of Bolton, on Feb. 24.



Windsor Federal Savings presented a check for \$2,500 to representatives of all four chambers of commerce, at the event on Feb. 24.

Community News

from Page 2

Call the library at 860-871-3620 for the link and password to watch this program. Faye is a trained actor and performer who has appeared on television, movies, and the theater. She played the fisherman's girlfriend in the movie "The Perfect Storm."

Strong Family Farm fundraiser to help the bees

VERNON — The Strong Family Farm is hosting a fundraiser to help support the farm's pollinators. Walt Moody, the farm's apiarist, said a hive was lost this winter. The farm will buy more bees to replace them in the spring.

Visit www.flowerpowerfundraising.com, click "Buy Bulbs & Help a Cause" and search for Strong Family Farm, or visit www.strong-familyfarm.org for the direct link. Browse the catalog for vegetable and fruit seed packs and flowers to grow this spring. All the proceeds will go towards helping the bees thrive at Strong Family Farm.

Historical Society flea market seeking vendors

ELLINGTON — The Ellington Historical Society is seeking vendors to participate in the annual vintage flea market to be held on Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Nellie McKnight Museum, 70 Main St. The fee for a 10x10 tent is \$40. Registration can be done online at www.ellingtonhistoricalsociety.org under the events tab or by emailing ellingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or calling 860-872-0121

CROSSWORD ANSWERS FOR TODAY'S PUZZLE

Y	O	E	N	S	E	B	A	L	E	S	E	D
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Arts Center East hosting artist members' exhibit, art workshops

VERNON — Arts Center East, 709 Hartford Turnpike, presents the following programs. Visit <https://artscentereast.org/> or call 860-871-8222 for more information.

The 11th annual Artist Members Exhibit will take place March 5 to 26 and is free and open to the public. Visit www.artscentereast.org/artist-members-exhibit for more information. The gift shop will be reopened during this exhibit to showcase more from artist and artisan members.

The submission deadline for Still Lives & The Legacy of Charles Ethan Porter is March 13. Exhibit dates are April 1 to 30. Visit www.artscentereast.org/still-lives for more information.

The exhibit will feature contemporary still lifes alongside artwork and information about 19th and early 20th century Rockville artist, Charles Ethan Porter. Porter was a renowned still life artist in the 19th and early 20th Century. He lived in Rockville for most of his life. Porter not only studied art at the National Academy of Design in New York City, he was one of the first Black artists to exhibit there.

The exhibit submissions are open to artists 18 years and older working in acrylic, pastels, oil, watercolor, charcoal, and colored pencil. Subjects can vary from traditional still life or memento mori composition (flowers, fruit, timepieces, etc.) to more contemporary or surreal compositions.

This exhibit is made possible by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Vernon Greater Together Community Fund.

Replay a dark comedy about unpacking baggage at 8 p.m. Friday, March 11, and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, March 12.

Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$5 with a UCONN ID. Tickets must be reserved ahead of time. Visit www.artscentereast.org/replay to reserve tickets.

Email info@artscentereast.org an image of your vaccination card upon purchasing tickets. Audience members are required to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status.

The ACE Book Club is meeting virtually at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, via Zoom. The book is "Thank You for Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion" by Jay Heinrichs.

If you are new to the ACE Book Club and would like to join the March meeting, email info@artscentereast.org prior to the meeting date.

Rather than trying to discuss all the chapters in this book, each member will choose one chapter to discuss on this Zoom call, giving the highlights of the chapter, why he or she chose the chapter, and what they liked (or did not like) about the chapter.

A shadow puppetry workshop will take

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Courant Community will print a current birthday photo FREE in one edition. Submit a current photo and 15-word description including name, age, birthday, town, your name, daytime phone number to community@courant.com or to Courant Community, P.O. Box 569, Hartford, CT 06141. Please submit three weeks in advance to avoid disappointment.



Happy 2nd Birthday, Mishti (3/9): "We love you and wish you a fun-filled year ahead! Mommy, Daddy, Risha, and Maiya."



Happy 1st Birthday, Isaac (3/18): "Isaac, you are an amazing gift from God! Love, Mom, Dad, and big brother Michael!"



Happy 33rd Birthday, Lauren (3/21): "Keep on shining!"



Happy 13th Birthday, Alexandra (3/13): "You are my sunshine. Love, Dad."



Happy 2nd Birthday, Patrick (2/29): "Your smile lights up our hearts and makes every day a blessing. Mommy and Daddy."



Happy 70th Birthday, Dan (2/22): "Wishing you many, many more! Enjoy your crosswords. Love and cheers! Your family."



Happy 9th Birthday, Addilyn (2/28): "You are the sweetest and kindest granddaughter. I love and adore you. Papa."



Happy 3rd Birthday, Sage (2/23): "To our sweet little Sage. You light up our world. Love you lots, Mimi and Nonno."

South Windsor considers temporary 'pause' on new apartments or housing subdivisions

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Amid a wave of new residential development hitting central Connecticut, South Windsor is talking about putting on the brakes with a moratorium.

Planners in the town so far are divided about whether a temporary halt to new housing would be good or bad, though, and won't be deciding the matter until later this month at the soonest.

A half-year or full-year ban on new housing applications would give planners time to update South Windsor's regulations on affordable housing, open space and other concerns that aren't sufficiently addressed now, advocates said.

Some also support the moratorium as a way to ease the strain on South Windsor's schools, where enrollment is rising steadily. The goal is to head off any influx of additional children that would come with new houses and apartments, at least for the year while a larger Pleasant Valley School is under construction.

But several residents along with a few members of the Planning and Zoning Commission are concerned that the moratorium would risk long-term growth for the town. They also question whether a ban on new housing is the right way to address school crowding.

"Some of the consequences I see — it could discourage future development" and possibly discourage families from moving to town, Commissioner Alan Cavagnaro told his colleagues at a recent meeting.

"I fear a moratorium will have an adverse impact. We'll develop a reputation for being hostile to development," Commissioner Stephen Wagner replied. "I plan to vote against this."

But Commissioner Mike LeBlanc offered a different view: South Windsor's zoning regulations are outdated, and planners need to devote time in the next year to bring them up to date so they can guide any future growth, he said.

"I hate to say it but some sections look weak to me — these regulations we have really need to be brought to today. A lot of time has passed since this was written," LeBlanc said.

In a written report to his colleagues, Chairman Bart Pacekonis said too many

projects are being approved with "cookie cutter open space cluster designs; minimum lot frontages, sizes and usability of lots; undesirable open space; loss of habitats" and other shortcomings. Taking months — or a year — to update the rules would help the town in the long term, he said.

Temporarily barring developers from proposing new projects would give the commission time to study recent development patterns and find better ways of carving out green space in large developments, according to supporters. It would also allow time to research new state legislation on affordable housing to position South Windsor to meet future requirements, they said.

Opponents dismissed that idea, saying commissioners could simply hold special meetings — or longer meetings — to do that type of planning after dealing with routine applications.

"We've now wasted two public hearings" arguing the moratorium instead of discussing rules on open space, interior lots and affordable housing," Wagner said.

Councilman Andrew Paterna warned that a moratorium could discourage developers, leading to less new construction and smaller grand list growth. That would mean existing taxpayers would have to share more of future tax burdens, he said.

Cavagnaro also said commissioners shouldn't be trying to resolve the school enrollment issue.

"Some commissioners have noted our schools are too crowded. It's not our purview to decide this moratorium based on class sizes," Cavagnaro said. "While it is a concern, we cannot let that impact our decision."

South Windsor's school population has grown steadily in recent years. Enrollment currently stands at 4,778 students, about 220 more than last year and nearly 600 more than five years ago. This month, the Board of Education approved \$800,000 in the next budget to hire more faculty and improve the high school annex to deal with growth.

The town is spending more than \$58 million to replace the Pleasant Valley Elementary School with a larger building. If construction is on schedule, it will open in August 2023.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will resume deliberations on the moratorium in March.



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In Rocky Hill, more than 200 apartments to replace the massive Ames building vacant since 2002

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

A developer is planning more than 200 apartments along with retail and commercial projects at the former Ames headquarters, a high-visibility site in Rocky Hill that's been derelict for 20 years.

Hamden-based Belfonti Companies LLC plans to demolish the 250,000-square-foot office building and replace it with 213 apartments, making it among the largest new residential projects in central Connecticut.

Rocky Hill officials have worked for years to find a new use for the abandoned 12-acre Ames site. After prolonged talks with the developer, the Planning and Zoning Commission approved a special permit.

Mayor Lisa Marotta said this week that Belfonti's plan will help all of the surrounding area as well.

"This site is right across from our town green, our Memorial Day parade goes right by it. Now we've gotten to the point where we won't have to look any longer at the awful blighted building we've been staring at for 20 years," Marotta said.

Gov. Ned Lamont's administration last year put up \$500,000 toward environmental cleanup, and the state department of economic and community development may provide another \$500,000 to \$1 million.

Belfonti hasn't specified a start date or a completion target, but told planners it intends to put up 93 one-bedroom apartments and 120 two-bedroom units. They would be leased at market rate except for 10 percent of the project, which will be designated for workforce rental rates.

The project will include about 11,000 square feet of commercial office space and 10,000 square feet of retail or restaurant space.

"This is a mixed-use development that ticks off all the boxes — we need housing, we need retail space," Marotta said. "This lot is the last large property that can be redeveloped. It's going to be done with a lot of green space, a beautiful pocket park and new sidewalks above and beyond what we could ask for as a municipality."

The property is along Route 99 at Route 160, and has been an eyesore in town since Ames shut down its chain of department stores in 2002.

Marotta said redeveloping it is a key part of a larger five- to 10-year plan to create a village center for Rocky Hill.



Boarded-up windows and doors accent the exterior wall at the old Ames headquarters in Rocky Hill. Plans are being made to develop more than 200 apartments along with retail and commercial projects at the high-visibility site that's been derelict for 20 years. **MARK MIRKO / THE HARTFORD COURANT**

"We're looking for a place where people can walk, gather or ride bikes at the beginning of our downtown — because we don't have one," she said. "The vision is to start creating a space where people pull up to commercial establishments and can walk around."

"Maybe there will be some infill development along the Silas Deane. And our goal this year is to connect to the riverfront. We can start building our sidewalks off this development," she said.

Belfonti has smaller projects underway in Manchester, Groton, Hamden, Middletown, Litchfield, Ellington, Watertown and Guilford, along with other large-scale ones in Miami and Revere, Massachusetts.

Owner Michael Belfonti told planners that the Rocky Hill project will include a pool, clubhouse and public amenity spaces. It will have nine buildings of apartments and five garage buildings, and engineers told the town that the 360 parking spaces will be shielded from public view.

Belfonti's consultant team also told the town that the project should benefit stormwater management in the area, since much of the 12 acres is currently paved. That will be sharply reduced in the new plan, according to the developer.

Consultant Mark Forlenza of Brookfield-based Mark Forlenza and Associates said the target market for the new apartments will be young professionals as well as empty-nesters seeking to downsize from suburban houses.

Job-training program to help employers in health care, information technology hire workers

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

Connecticut is launching a job-training program to connect 8,000 prospective employees to jobs in health care and information technology.

Supported by a grant from Bank of America, the state Office of Workforce Strategy and Social Venture Partners Connecticut, a management consulting firm, are hiring two workforce strategy directors to help roll out the job training program, CareerConneCT.

Gov. Ned Lamont's office and the Office of Workforce Strategy did not immediately respond to an email asking how much Bank of America is spending on the initiative.

CareerConneCT is working with other programs to help increase Connecticut's health care and IT workforce by more than 2,500 employees each over the next three years.

"Especially given the pandemic, Connecticut needs to make sure that our health care and IT workforces are fully operational and meeting the growing needs of our local economy," Lamont said.

The governor announced the state will receive more than \$60 million in federal

pandemic relief. As many as 8,000 workers will be trained, with the state spending \$14 million each to manufacturing, health care and information technology; \$10 million to infrastructure and green jobs; and about \$9 million to other industries.

The two workforce strategy directors will help coordinate workforce development initiatives such as more flexible job training programs tied to industry requirements, designing career pathway programs for high school students, expanding recruitment of marginalized populations for job opportunities, and increasing business engagement in regional partnerships.

Lamont in 2019 established an advisory group that submitted a report the following year recommending strategies to match skilled workers with jobs in manufacturing, health care and information technology. The group also turned its attention to social problems that trap low-wage workers.

The governor said last month his workforce development plans were hit by "immediate short-term COVID-related interruptions."

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.



Connecticut is launching a job-training program to connect 8,000 prospective employees to jobs in health care and information technology. Pictured here, Griffin Hospital nurse Carrie Cotto administers a COVID-19 vaccine last April. **DAVE ZAJAC / AP**

GOOD NEIGHBOR

Your reader-to-reader column

FREE

PIANO: Upright piano. Good condition. Must be picked up. 860-791-7926.

SOFA: Blue and white floral stripe, 7 feet long, excellent condition. 860-646-2009.

WORKING ORGAN: Hammond Leslie Organ with amplifier and bench. Free to anyone or organization that could use it. Must pick up. 860-568-2566 or 860-872-0798.

GLASS JARS: With covers, suitable for preservation/pickling. Must provide your own container for transportation. 860-878-0229.

QUESTIONS

DESK: Seeking desk in good condition with medium color wood or lighter. Glastonbury area. 860-430-2994 or 860-368-8087.

CASSETTE PLAYER: Looking for cassette player in very good condition. Willing to pay reasonable price. In Glastonbury area. 860-368-8087 or 860-430-2994.

METAL SHELVEING: Need metal shelving for an art project. 860-951-0095.

GREEN TRIPE: Seeking a farmer who can sell green tripe to feed to my dogs. 860-267-6040.

MEMORY CARDS: Looking for someone to donate or sell cheaply the following: A CF card or CF32 card for use in an older A85 canon camera or any SanDisk card, only 2.0 gigabytes. 860-648-9147.

TABLET ASSISTANCE: Seeking someone to set up tablet and phone. Will pay. 860-666-5699.

FOUND: Baseball Card in protective plastic cover found in Marlborough, Connecticut in 2014, unintentionally tucked away, and recently uncovered. Send an email to cs-137@outlook.com with an accurate description of the card, and we'll get it back to the owner.

SEEKING TO RENT: At least 1,500 to 2,000 sq. ft. of cold storage. Rocky at 860-490-3816 or 860-872-6269.a

DRONE FOUND: Vicinity of Elm St & Courtney Drive, Rocky Hill. Text with

description for return. 860-402-2655.

FOUND EYEGLASSES: Eyeglasses found on Carriage Drive, Manchester. 860-646-4242.

AUTO MECHANIC: Seeking auto mechanic to repair pickup truck. Am senior citizen, phone with reasonable price. 860-796-6132.

FURNITURE: Seeking a light wooden chest having five drawers in good condition. Call after 5 p.m. 860-665-0141.

LOST BRACELET: Bracelet lost at ALDIs of Rocky Hill by carriages. It was a birthday gift. Call if found. 860-778-8556.

PUZZLE SWAP: Will meet half way if too far to go. Have 20, most new. 860-568-1378.

SEEKING: Small boat trailer for a 12 boat, will buy. 860-741-2633.

NECKLACE FOUND: On Carillon Drive, Rocky Hill. Call with description for return. 860-965-6672. Messages will be returned.

SNOW SHOVELING HELP: Senior looking for an individual to shovel out parking space and clean off car after snow storms in Collinsville. 860-305-6701.

CAR: Seeking automobile to help out with transportation in 2022. Elderly with low Social Security. 860-515-1488.

LAPTOPS: Collecting used or new laptops from kind donors. These laptops will be donated to school kids in Ghana. Contact Ben, 423-676-8815.

NAUTICAL ROPE: Looking for free 1/2- or 3/4-inch nautical rope for DIY projects. 860-490-8956.

PROPANE: Seeking propane Salamander. Will pay a reasonable price. 860-749-2190.

LAWN MOWING, SNOW REMOVAL: Does anyone know of someone who mows grass and/or plows snow? 860-289-0101 after 5 p.m.

CAR: Seeking a donated good running car for elderly person in Putnam for doctor appointments. Cannot afford one. 508-335-5060. Leave a message.

Be a good neighbor

To submit, send an email to community@courant.com or mail to 285 Broad St., Hartford, CT 06115. Good Neighbor is a service by Courant Community. Questions and answers are provided by our readers and are not verified. Medical information cannot be published. Caution should be exercised at all times. The publisher is not responsible for damage to any person or property.

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place from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 19, and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday March 20, with instructor Genna Beth Davidson.

Cost is \$100 and all materials are included. Register online at www.artscentereast.org or call 860-871-8222. The class is limited to 10 students, ages 14 and up.

Pastel and the Still Life Workshop with discussion of the still life works of Charles Ethan Porter will run from Saturday, April 30, and Sunday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a break for lunch.

Cost to attend is \$120 and the deadline to register is April 25. Class is limited to 10 students. Students are asked to show proof of vaccination upon registration. All visitors to Arts Center East are asked to wear a mask while in the building. All levels are welcome.

East Granby Library hosting knitting, crochet circle

ENFIELD — EAST GRANBY — A knitting and crochet circle will take place from 11 a.m. to noon Friday, March 11, at the East Granby Public Library, 24 Center St. The circle will meet the second Friday of the month. Guests are welcome to bring their knitting or crochet projects. Call 860-653-3002 or email doreenj@egpl.org with questions.

American Legion breakfast taking place

WINDSOR LOCKS — Gensi-Viola Post No. 36, The American Legion of Windsor Locks, will host their family breakfast on Sunday, March 6.

All members of the Post, Auxiliary and families as well as all area veterans are welcome. The menu includes pancakes or French toast, sausage, juice, coffee and tea. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$4 for children under the age of 12. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

Lecture taking place virtually

BLOOMFIELD — On Monday, March 14, at 2 p.m., in observance of Women's History Month, Bloomfield Public Library and the Wintonbury Historical Society present a virtual lecture by author Susan Campbell entitled, "Ivoryton: Matching Girls and the Story of Ivory."

The program is about the labor struggles of women workers in Connecticut's ivory industry. The women were called "matching" girls, whose job was to match the thin strips of ivory that would be attached to wooden piano keys. The program will look

at these employees' lives as well as the difficult past of the ivory industry.

Campbell is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, widely-read newspaper columnist, author of three books, and a regular commentator on WNPR. Registration is required. Go to bplct.org and click on Event Calendar. Once registered, you will receive the link for the program via your email.

Windsor Social Services offering assistance to caregivers

WINDSOR — Windsor Social Services is looking to offer a helping hand to caregivers and their family members, through resources and support.

Call Windsor Social Services and speak with Debbie at 860-285-1839 for more information. She will ask for your email address and a short idea of what caretaking you are doing. By collecting this data, Social Services will have a better idea how many Windsor residents are caretakers and what services could benefit them and their loved ones.

"Patrick: Roman Citizen, Slave and Saint" taking place

EAST WINDSOR — Join the Warehouse Point Library on Saturday, March 12, at 10:30 a.m. for a Zoom presentation titled 'Patrick: Roman Citizen, Slave and Saint' by Richard S. Ross.

Dr. Ross will discuss Patrick's struggle to free himself from his slave master, his conflicts with the Druids and Irish Chieftains to bring Christianity to Ireland, and conclude with the myths surrounding Patrick his legacy and his curious sanctification. Visit www.warehousepointlibrary.info to register online. A Zoom link will be sent to your email the day before the program.

Ross holds a Ph.D. in European history and is the author of two books "Contagion in Prussia, 1831 The Cholera Epidemic and the Threat of the Polish Uprising" and "Before Salem Witch Hunting in the Connecticut River Valley.

Enfield Library hosting PJ storytime, Bingo night, Irish dance

ENFIELD — The Enfield Public Library, 104 Middle Road, is hosting the following events. Visit www.enfieldpubliclibrary.org or call 860-763-7518 or 860-763-7512 for more information.

PJ storytime will take place on Thursday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m. PJs are proper attire. Bring along Mom and Dad and your favorite stuffed animal. The recommended age for this storytime is three to seven.

Family bingo night will take place on **Turn to Community News, Page 10**



Newington's Lilly Ferguson struggles to get a shot away in heavy traffic. **STEVE SMITH/HARTFORD COURANT**

3-point buzzer-beater gives East Hartford win over Newington in CCC final

By **Steve Smith**
Courant Community

EAST HARTFORD — East Hartford senior Kayla Henry launched a 3-point shot from the corner to get East Hartford the win in the CCC championship game, on Feb. 24.

The defensive battle included several lead changes, and both teams taking chances away from each other, and the score was 23-23 going into the fourth quarter. With just under 11 seconds to go, the score was tied at 28, when Newington's Lilly Ferguson was fouled on the floor while going to the basket. Ferguson drained both shots, making it 30-28.

With just 3.8 seconds to go, East Hartford's inbound pass went to standout Shailyn Pinkney. As Newington defenders closed in, Pinkney threw a long pass to Henry (more than half a court away). Henry threw the shot, the buzzer buzzed, and the ball went in for a 31-30 final.

Henry said she felt the shot was going to go in. "I didn't play the way I wanted to this game, but I had confidence in that shot. It's always the last shot that counts, and the last shot that everyone remembers," she said. "That's the shot that everybody wants to take. That's the biggest shot of the game. You take the heat if you lose it, and you take the heat if you win it. It's a great moment. I'm just glad that we won."

After the shot fell, the crowd naturally erupted. Henry was thrilled she was able to make that happen for her team.

"Me and this whole team, we've been trying to prove ourselves all year, and this is definitely the moment we've been waiting for," she said.

East Hartford coach Jonathan Myette said the game was about keeping a positive mind throughout the game, as well as down by two points that late.

"These girls get so caught up in the little parts - the drops in the game - but basketball ebbs and flows," he said. "We knew this was going to come down to who would make one more play than the other team. All the girls came together to make the right play at the right time, and we got it done."

With the state tournament ahead, Myette said it may be hard to top that moment, but the Hornets will be feeling good going into it.

"This is huge momentum," he said. "We keep checking off our goals. They're going to take a long weekend, then we're going to reset our goals."

Newington coach Marc Tancredi said he was very proud of how his girls played.

"I've been proud of them all season," he said. "I thought we battled tonight. You've got to give East Hartford credit. They executed that play perfectly. She made a big time shot and it fell. Both teams are really deserving of winning the conference tournament. They happened to make one more basket than us."

Tancredi said he did turn up the defensive intensity, adjusting from the earlier game between the two teams, and executed that well. For the state tournament, Newington will stick to what has worked well for it all season, making only minor adjustments.

"We just continue to focus on the three things we focus on in practice the last month - communication, urgency, and energy," he said.

For more information, visit www.centralconnecticutconference.org.



Chanel is just over a year old. She's a very curious girl, and goes nuts for catnip! She will roll around belly up happy as can be. In general Chanel is upset with her current surrounding at the shelter and has developed some sassy habits. She needs a loving home with someone who has patience. Experienced owner preferred. We think once she's back in a normal household environment, she will be a great companion.

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Meet Willow!

Willow is an 8 year old Shepherd/Husky mix who is charming, adventurous, and fun! She enjoys spending time on the couch with her people and entertaining herself with her favorite Kong toys! She is looking for an adult home with dog savvy people and where she can be your one and only pet to receive all the attention! Willow would appreciate a single family home in a rural area with an active lifestyle. To learn more, please contact Our Companions at



860.242.9999 Ext. 302
OurCompanions.org
Helpline@OurCompanions.org



Our Companions
Animal Rescue & Sanctuary

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East Hartford hold the banner, with game winner Kayla Henry holding the CCC Championship trophy.



Newington's Marie Zocco looks for a teammate to pass to.



East Hartford's Kayla Henry attempts a 3-point shot that didn't fall, but a later one sealed the win for the Hornets.



East Hartford's Comfort Boateng goes up and comes down with a rebound.

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

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Friday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m. Have fun and win prizes at this free drop-in program. The front lobby doors open at 6 p.m. The library closes at 5 p.m.

SRL Irish Dance Academy returns to the library at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 5. The program will feature performances by SRL's students, history and information about Irish dancing, and a free mini-lesson for all ages.

Rhyme Time, a half hour of nursery rhymes, songs, and finger-plays, will take place at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8. This is a drop-in program designed to promote early language skills for ages birth to 24 months, accompanied by parents or caregivers.

The Taste Testers Cookbook Club will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 10. The club invites all home cooks and culinary aficionados to join them in taste testing a cookbook. March's cookbook selection is "Pull Up a Chair" by Tiffani Thiessen. Thiessen was beloved for her iconic roles on "Saved by the Bell" and "Beverly Hills 90210." She also had her own cooking show, "Dinner at Tiffani's."

Select a recipe, cook it and share with others. The cookbook and signup are at the reference desk. Participants are asked to bring their own plates and flatware to reduce waste and minimize touch points.

Mall Madness XIX coming to Enfield Square Mall

ENFIELD — Girl Scouts, families, and supporters will gather at Enfield Square Mall, 90 Elm St., for the 19th annual Mall Madness event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 12.

The opening ceremony in Center Court will take place at 11:30 a.m. This year's theme is "Girl Scouts Make the World a Better Place." The general public will have the opportunity to learn more about girl scouting in Connecticut, including information about Girl Scout Summer Camp and how to register as a new member of Girl Scouts.

In addition, girls will participate in a variety of activities, including a talent show and a special closing with Taps being played. Interactive booths will also be featured throughout the mall. Girls will have

the opportunity to meet women from the Society of Women Engineers and Women in Aviation, CT Chapter; view Girl Scout Gold and Silver Award projects; visit the many SWAPS booths; learn about cleaning rivers; and the Guiding Eyes for the Blind booth.

All visitors to the Enfield Square Mall are welcome to participate in the interactive activities hosted at the booths. Girl Scout cookies will be available to buy. No registration is required and the event is free to the public. Contact Gail Myers at 860-254-5133 or email gabbygail53@cox.net for more information or to volunteer.

Wethersfield Theater to present 'Cinderella'

AVON — WETHERSFIELD — Wethersfield High School's Theater Department will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. After a two year hiatus, the stage at WHS, 411 Wolcott Hill Road, will come alive on March 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. and March 13 at 3 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online at showtix4u.com and cost is \$14 per adult and \$10 per student and senior. Tickets at the door are \$16 per adult and \$12 per student and senior.

Lecture on marine paintings, Celtic concert taking place

WETHERSFIELD — A lecture on the marine paintings of Russ Kramer will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 3, at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main St.

Kramer will give a presentation on his oil paintings that depict historic America's Cup races and other yachting scenes. He will focus on stories behind the paintings, anecdotes about the famous boats and crews, plus a behind-the-scenes look on the process he employs in developing his paintings.

A St. Patrick's Day Concert featuring the Ringrose & Freeman Celtic Duo will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 17. The suggested donation is \$20 and includes refreshments. The event is also BYOB.

Drawing the Portrait in Graphite, a three-day workshop, will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 31, April 1, and April 2.

Students will explore draw-

LOCAL NEWS

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ing a long pose portrait in a comparative measure method with graphite. Through demonstration, discussion, and critique, each student will create a carefully rendered portrait.

For more details, go to <http://www.wethersfieldarts.org>, email info@wethersfieldarts.org or call 860-994-8304.

West Hartford Garden Club hosting program on pruning

WEST HARTFORD — The West Hartford Garden Club is opening its March, April and May 2022 meetings to a limited number of non-members.

At noon Thursday, March 10, Kevin Wilcox of Silver Spring Horticultural Services of Bloomfield will present a program on pruning and best tool care. The fee is a guest donation of \$10.

The location is Saint John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Ave. The meeting room entrance is at the ramp door in the back of the church.

Per church requirements, guests must remain masked at all times while inside the building. No food or drink is permitted in the building. Registration is required. Visit www.WestHartfordGardenClub.org for more information.

If unable to meet in person, the meeting will be held via Zoom. Registered attendees will receive a Zoom link a day or two prior to the presentation. A club business meeting precedes the speaker. Sign into Zoom between 12:30 to 1 p.m. in order to attend the presentation.

Taste of West Hartford—Elmwood returns

WEST HARTFORD — The Taste of West Hartford - Elmwood will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, March 7, at Corporate Center West, 433 South Main St.

Food will be provided by Beachland Tavern, Cafe Louise, Chick-Fil-A and Taste by Spellbound. Beverages will be provided by Two Pour Guys. More restaurants will be announced.

Decor will be provided by Pink Flamingo Party Co., chair massages by Nurturing Hands and dance demos by Arthur Murray Dance. A portion of the proceeds will go toward non-profit beneficiary, Friends of Feeney. Covid precautions/guidelines will be followed.

District creates community health survey

WEST HARTFORD — The West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District is looking for residents age 18 or older to participate in a short, anonymous survey.

The purpose of this survey is to better understand the needs of the community and to help improve the health and well-being of all residents. The survey includes questions on basic demographic information, mental health, physical health, and behaviors affecting health.

Contact Destiny LaPointe at destiny.lapointe@westhartfordct.gov or Megan Westcott at megan.westcott@westhartfordct.gov with questions about resources in the community. Visit https://meganwesthartfordct.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bwOMecZKvzNIP6e to access the survey.

Unearthing History webinar continues in March

AVON — The partnership of the Avon Historical Society, Avon Free Public Library and Avon Senior Center will present the first lecture in a second annual five-part webinar series.

"Unearthing History: The Discovery of a 12,500-year-old Paleo-Indian Site along the Farmington River in Avon, CT" will begin with the first lecture: "What Genetics Teaches Us About the Peopling of North America," presented by Dr. Jennifer Raff, anthropological geneticist at the University of Kansas.

The free lecture will be held on Thursday, March 10, beginning at 7 p.m. via Zoom, through a link from the library. Visit www.avonctlibrary.info for more info or to register.

Dr. Raff's thesis focuses on the question how—and when—did people first come to the American continents. Two copies of her new book, "Origin: A Genetic History of the Americas," will be given away at the end of the talk. The "Unearthing History" series II, sponsored by a grant from the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee, is being held in response to the 2019 excavation of a 12,500-year-old (10,000BC) Paleo-Indian site six feet below ground during a CT Department of Transportation construction project of the now completed bridge on Old Farms and Waterville Roads at Route 10 in Avon.

The survey uncovered more than 15,000 artifacts that are characteristic of the Early and Middle Paleo-Indian periods.

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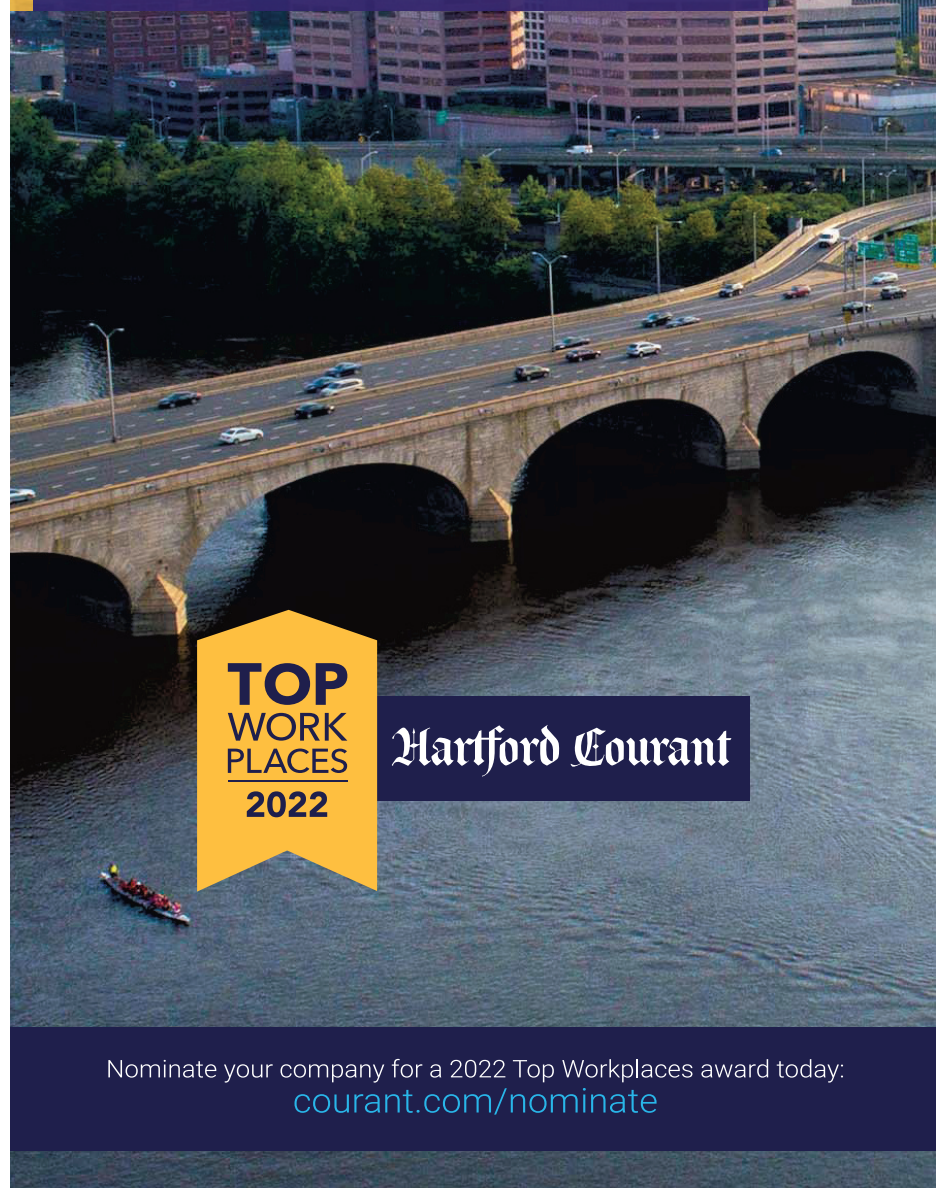
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A ride in the wilderness

By William Heald

Special to Courant Community

When it comes to vehicles that have all-wheel-drive, there's only a matter of time before some tinkering goes on.

I'm speaking of course of the type of 4x4s used to go off the beaten track, or at least for an occasional jaunt on the beach or jingle through deep snow when the mood (or a desire to get to work) arises. Bigger tires and a raised suspension usually top the list when it comes to modifying a machine to go into tougher conditions, but if you start messing with a lot of vehicles (such as a Subaru Outback wagon) you will also alter the vehicle's ride, handling and center of gravity to the point that the car is not as sharp as the engineers originally made it.

But what if Subaru was to raise the vehicle at the factory, including all the engineering necessary to keep its road manners (and stability) largely intact? Behold, the Outback Wilderness Edition. Subaru boosts the suspension nearly an inch in height so it has 9.5 inches of ground clearance, and tweaks it for rougher going while arming it with an exclusive version of the dual function X-Mode driving program for enhanced trail capability. The question is, on the road does it still drive like the Outback that so many have preferred to a tall, boxy SUV?

The answer is yes and no. Most of the chassis of this handsome wagon, which rides on a 108.1-inch wheelbase, is unchanged but as mentioned the suspension is modified to make an already tallish passenger car even loftier. The Outback Wilderness is powered by Subaru's signa-

ture Boxer flat-four engine, in this case a 2.4-liter turbocharged mill that produces 260 horsepower and 277 lb.-ft. of torque. The gearbox is a high-torque lineartronic continuously variable transmission (CVT), with an 8-speed manual mode (the lower gear ratios are altered for the Wilderness' trail duties).

Subaru's all-wheel-drive system is a full time unit that for wilderness duty has an exclusive version of the dual X-Mode performance program that enhances drivetrain tuning for better performance in slippery, rugged and sloppy traction situations. Performance is good and the response of the turbocharged Boxer along with CVT make for a peppy experience while sacrificing some linearity in power delivery. Ride quality is more SUV than station wagon, but an acceptable compromise for trail/street duty although not as absorbent as the regular Outback. As equipped, the Wilderness can tow a 3,500 lb. trailer.

The cabin is fairly roomy and uniquely appointed for this new trim range, and includes StarTex water-repellent seats. Subaru seems to be gradually eliminating more knobs and switches in lieu of a huge portrait-style touch screen interface, and while it's certainly contemporary I found it to be initially counter-intuitive. Rear seat accommodations are good and the perches are heated as are the front. With the rear seatbacks folded, cargo space is a generous 75.7 cubic feet.

The 2022 Subaru Outback Wilderness is EPA rated 22 MPG city/26 highway and with options our MSRP came to \$39,965. www.subaru.com.



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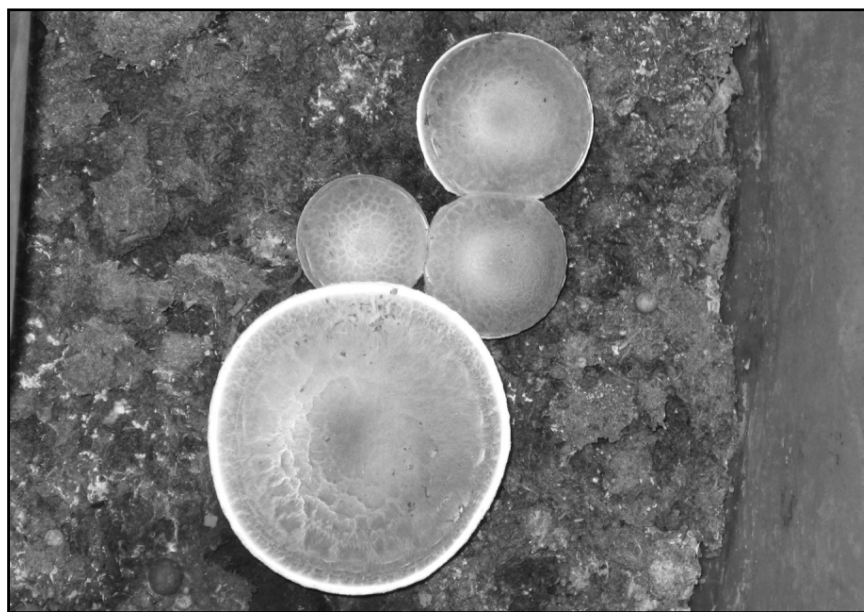
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Make Room For Mushrooms

By Dawn Pettinelli, UConn Home & Garden Education Center



Arriving home from work one evening, I noticed a rather heavy box left on my doorstep. Upon closer inspection it turned out to be an indoor mushroom growing kit – portobellos to be exact. I love mushrooms and the thought of having several pounds of these delectable, meaty morsels growing within tossing distance to the sauté pan had me inspecting the contents and reading the instructions within minutes of carrying the box inside the house.

Turns out, growing mushrooms indoors is pretty easy. Different species do have different cultural requirements but they seem to mostly be for either the medium they grow in or the temperature required for growth and development. Mushrooms are fungal organisms. There are many different kinds of fungi but they can rather broadly be grouped into three groups. Decomposers break down organic materials into their original components which can then be recycled back into the soil. Mycorrhizal fungal organisms form beneficial relationships with plants. Pathogenic fungal organisms cause disease problems in plants and also in animals.

Most of the mushroom species that are available for indoor growing are the decomposer species, also referred to as saprophytic fungi. The mushrooms are the fruiting bodies of fungal organisms. They produce spores from which white masses of mycelium form which then give rise to more mushrooms and the cycle repeats itself. Mushrooms are very old organisms with one mushroom fossil dating back 420 million years! You would think that we would know quite a bit about fungal organisms since they have been around such a long time but there are many things about fungi that scientists haven't figured out yet – like what do mushrooms use sunlight for? They are not able to photosynthesize yet they grow towards the light just like plants.

With the spread of the global marketplace and growing interest in functional foods, the number of mushroom species available even in the local grocery store has exploded in recent years. A walk through the produce aisle brings you face to face with Shiitake, portobello, crimini, oyster as well as the common white button mushrooms. Not only are mushrooms a scrumptious culinary choice but some mushrooms are believed to produce compounds that can stimulate the immune system, fight diseases and add essential minerals, nutrients and other healthy compounds to one's diet.

Interest in growing mushrooms has spread to the point where it is actually quite easy to purchase indoor kits. I found some at my local agricultural supply store. The kit consists of a bag of growing media which is usually sawdust, grain straw, compost or other organic substance, the mushroom spawn, and growing directions.

For some species of mushrooms the organic growing substrate is already inoculated with the mushroom spawn while others contain a separate bag of it which is mixed in by the lucky recipient. This happened to be the case with the portobello mushroom kit I received. Both the growing medium and the inoculated spawn mix needed to be moistened and then mixed together. Then I just needed to keep the kit around room temperature and keep the medium adequately moist, and I was picking my portobellos about a month later. Most of the mushroom kits will have 2 or 3 flushes of mushrooms, each averaging 2 pounds or more, over the course of about 3 months. After your kit stops producing, you can add it to the compost pile or bury it in hardwood bark mulch and you may even revitalize it and get a few more mushrooms.

Fervent mycologists of the gardening variety may even consider cultivating a bed or mushrooms – they are usually grown in compost/hardwood bark mulch patches – or even inoculating hardwood logs.

Some of the most popular mushrooms for indoor growing include the aforementioned portobello, nameko, enokitake, oyster, Shiitake, Lion's mane and crimini. There are a number of places to purchase mushroom kits from online. A good web site to visit on mushroom growing is <https://attra.ncat.org/product/mushroom-cultivation-and-marketing/> It is geared towards commercial cultivation but contains good cultural information as well as many resources.

If you have any home & garden questions, contact the UConn Home & Garden Education at (877) 486-6271 or www.ladybug.uconn.edu or your local Cooperative Extension Center.

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